

Ruby's Birth

On the morning of April 22, 1969, things were a little hectic in the Anderson home. Mom was lying on the couch when she went into labor. (She had to have her left arm and shoulder amputated because of cancer a little over a year earlier.) Dad and Joan were able to get her to the bedroom where the delivery of the baby went by the book – literally. Dad had a book that walked him through the birth. After the baby was born and he had cut the cord, he forgot to turn the page to see what to do next.

Mom had gone through a lot of deliveries and one thing she hated was how they kneaded her stomach after each delivery. If Dad had turned the page he would have found out that the reason they kneaded the stomach was to help the uterus retract and stop the bleeding. Because Dad didn't know he was supposed to knead Mom's stomach she started to hemorrhage and lost a lot of blood. She told Dad to get her some cayenne pepper.

Rachel had just woke up and was coming out of the Girl's bedroom when Dad came rushing out of his bedroom with his hands covered in blood. In his haste he knocked Rachel back into her room. She could tell that something was horribly wrong. She tried to walk out again just as Dad returned and was knocked into her bedroom again.

The world that all the kids were used to had suddenly gone haywire. They stood in the kitchen trying to figure out what was going on. The ambulance and Grandma Scott were called to come help. The cayenne pepper that Dad gave to Mom stabilized her blood pressure and probably saved her life.

The ambulance arrived shortly afterwards and the paramedics put her on the stretcher. Rachel, Dallas and Lee were standing with our backs to the big window in the living room in shock. As the paramedics wheeled Mom through the house, she was too weak to talk but she turned her head towards her children and mouthed the words "good bye." Grandma Scott told us it would be OK as they put her in the ambulance and took her to the hospital.

Mom was not out of the woods. When she got to the hospital, Dad told the doctor that she had lost a lot of blood, but because her blood pressure looked good they thought that he was just being a nervous father. The effects of the cayenne pepper soon wore off and her blood pressure plummeted. Suddenly the doctors and nurses were frantically working to get her stabilized. Her blood pressure was so low they couldn't get a pulse and they thought she was dead. She could hear them talking and had to fight to keep from panicking. Because they didn't have her blood type in the hospital they had to send for some from Provo. After they gave her the blood her condition was stabilized.

Even with all the chaos that happened in the morning, the kids were thrilled to be able to tell their friends that they had a new baby sister.

